

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION FROM  
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

CD NO.

COUNTRY Korea

SUBJECT      Sociological - Publications, distribution

DATE OF INFORMATION 1952

HOW  
PUBLISHED Daily newspaper

DATE DIST. 21 May 1954

WHERE  
PUBLISHED P'yongyang

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE  
PUBLISHED 21 Aug 1952

LANGUAGE Korean

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Minju Choson

NORTH KOREAN LEADERS CRITICIZE DISSEMINATION OF PUBLICATIONS

[Comment: The following report summarizes the complaints presented by the chiefs of the Provincial Communications Control Offices about faulty distribution of propaganda material in North Korea. The information is taken from an article appearing in the Minju Choson, the daily organ of the North Korean Cabinet and the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly. The paper devoted half of its second page, normally reserved for party news, to this article.]

The chiefs of the provincial communications control offices discussed, on 2 August 1952, various problems in connection with the distribution of publications in North Korea, at a meeting sponsored by the Publications Control Bureau of the Ministry of Communications. The meeting was called to review the work of this bureau for the first half of 1952.

The chiefs of the provincial communications control offices called the bureau's attention to the following defects in the publications distribution system:

1. Publications were distributed without considering the audience for which the publications were originally intended. Frequently, publications were distributed to wrong type of readers, thereby nullifying their usefulness. For example, 30 copies of the Nodongja (Laborer), a monthly periodical for factory workers, went to the P'yongyang Internal Affairs Office [police office], and 20 copies were sent to the P'yongyang Photographic and Motion Picture Office, which found no use for the magazine. Meanwhile, P'yongyang factories received none. Similar examples of indiscriminate distribution were cited with respect to the Munhak Yesul (Literature and Art), a monthly magazine directed to writers and artists; the Konggohan P'yonghwa rul Wihayo Immin Minju Juui rul Wihayo (For a Stronger Peace and for a People's Democracy), a weekly newspaper for schools; and newspapers, Soviet Sinbo (Soviet News) and Nongmin Sinmun (Farmers News).

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## DISTRIBUTION

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2. Some distribution agents were found selling the Soviet Sinbo and Nongmin Sinmun in the street because these papers are always in demand.
3. In drawing up the distribution list to insure proper allocation of distribution the Publications Control Bureau ignored local needs and local interests and prepared inequitable and improper distribution lists.
4. Distribution agents frequently ignored the distribution list. The agents sent 300 more copies of the semimonthly magazine Chongch'i Chisik (Political Information) to the P'yongyang Central Post Office than the number actually allocated to that post office. Similarly, more copies of Naegak Kongbo (Cabinet Gazette) were sent to Chagang-do than were allocated to that province.
5. There were instances of overcharging, embezzling, or neglecting the collection of subscription fees. To illustrate, for several months, an employee of the Pyoksong Post Office in Hwanghae-do had been keeping the money he collected for newspapers. Some distribution agents in this post office collected 180 won for the monthly subscription fee for the Nodong Sinmun although the regular fee is 120 won; the agents pocketed the difference. Post office workers in Hamgyong-namdo sold 100 copies of the Hamnam Ilbo in the street, and the employees of Hoeh'on Post Office in Chagang-do also sold 120 copies of the Soviet Sinbo and pocketed the entire proceeds.
6. The collection record for subscription fees was poor. In Kangwon-do, only about 64 percent of the fees were collected. In Hwanghae-do the collection was 74 percent. About 80 percent of the total delinquent fees belonged to the Democratic Propaganda Rooms.
7. The careless handling of the published materials in the delivery process caused mutilation, loss, etc., of materials.
8. The mishandling of the publications for public dissemination was mainly due to: (1) lack of realization by the distribution agents of the political significance of the publications, (2) lack of cooperation between the party organizations on the one hand, and the government organs concerned [the Provincial Communications Control Offices and post offices which distribute the publications] on the other, in the guidance and supervision of the work of the distribution agents.
9. The men responsible for proper guidance and supervision were either giving wrong guidance to the distribution workers or they were indifferent and disinterested. For example, lack of cooperation among different political and government bodies was revealed by an incident in which a distribution office in Hwanghae-do suggested a joint meeting of the Hwanghae-do Farmers League, the County People's Committee, and the Provincial Office of Culture and Propaganda, to discuss the distribution of the newspapers Nongmin Sinmun and Soviet Sinbo. However, none of these organizations responded and the problems went unsolved.

The chiefs, concluding that the above faults seriously hamper the effective distribution publications and the dissemination of government policies and party doctrines to the masses, urged immediate corrective measures.

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